



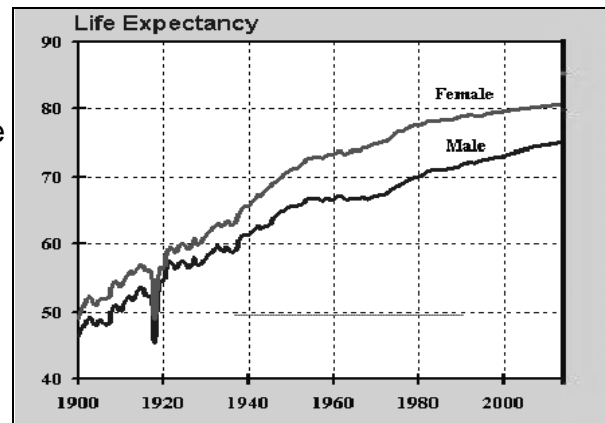
Administration on Aging

Honor the Past, Imagine the Future: Towards a Society for All Ages

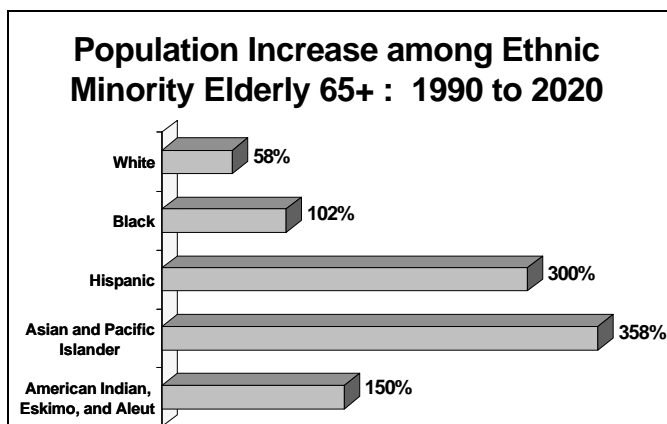
Planning for Longevity Across the Life Course

Longevity is one of the greatest achievements of the 20th Century. In this century alone, we have seen a more dramatic extension of longevity than humankind has witnessed in more than 4,000 years.

Recognizing that its ramifications will permeate and touch every aspect of our society -- from our workforce to its transportation systems, to our health care systems, product development, financial industries and our families -- the Administration on Aging is working to address the current and emergent needs of multi-generational cohorts of older Americans. Our focus on health, long-term care and caregiving, consumer protection, productive aging, economic security, and modernizing our Older Americans Act programs is intended to ensure that services and service delivery structures are relevant to emerging needs of the 21st century.

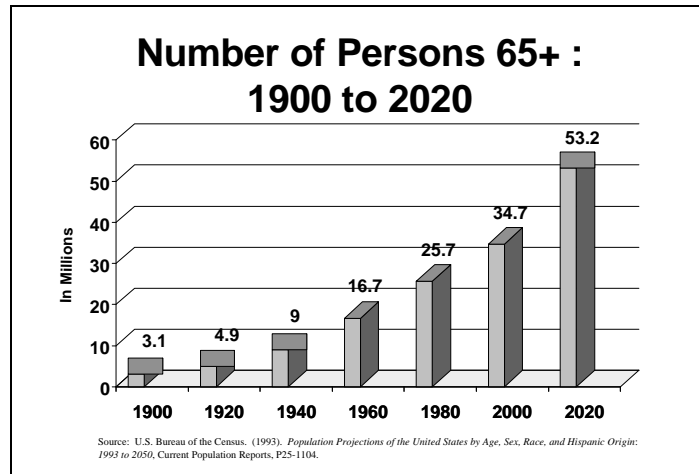


Just as our global society will need to anticipate and plan for the changes that will occur because so many people are likely to live longer lives, Americans of all ages must begin to anticipate and plan for the likelihood that they will live to be 80, 90 and 100. Regardless of how old you are today, the opportunity to live a longer life heightens the importance of keeping active and healthy, earning and saving enough to live comfortably, being involved in work or activities that are satisfying, having rewarding relationships with family and friends, and of finding ways to meet spiritual needs. A good quality of life will be possible for many Americans, if they plan as early as possible for their life course.

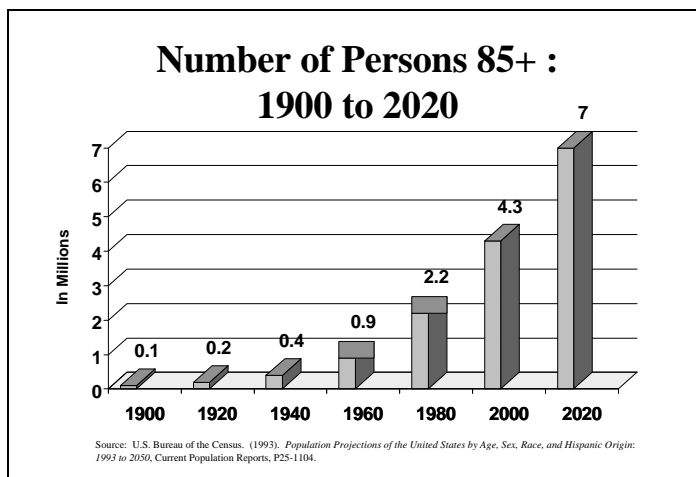


Older Americans are a diverse population spanning as many as four decades. Among older Americans, women and minorities tend to be at greater social and economic risk.

Approximately 34 million Americans today, or 1-in-8, are age 65 or older, with persons 100 years of age and older the fastest growing segment in our population. By the year 2030, one in five Americans will be age 65 and older, and the number of older Americans will double to approximately 65 million.



As we enter the 21st Century, older people will outnumber children for the first time in our history. Along with that will come a myriad of issues and opportunities related to services and programs for older persons of today, as well as the 76 million baby boomers anticipated to join the ranks of the older population within the next 12 years. According to the Census Bureau, one of every nine baby boomers will survive to at least 90 years of age. As a result, the programs we run and the policies we make must be designed for a longer living community of older more active citizens.



These longer life spans have been made possible largely by remarkable advances in medicine, science and technology, as well as health promotion and disease prevention, employment, volunteer and continuing education opportunities all of which will continue to enable older Americans to make a difference in communities across the nation.

Indeed, there is a growing recognition that aging can and should be a positive experience, and that we can take charge as we prepare for our own longevity, regardless of our age today.

Longevity has become an American way of life.